Delhi. Advisor, Department of ISM&H attends the Kshar-Sutra-Clinic on every Tuesday in the above Hospital.

The Government could not get a suitable candidate for the post of Medical Superintendent, CGHS, Ayurvedic Hospital, Lodhi Road for filling up the same on deputation basis. As no officer of CGHS cadre is senior enough to be promoted to the post of Medical Superintendent of CGHS Ayurvedic Hospital, Lodhi Road, the Advisor (Ayurveda) who is the senior most officer in the cadre has been given the additional charge of the post of Medical Superintendent in this hospital.

(c) and (d) Though DG/Director/Additional Directors of CGHS function from their respective offices, inspections of CGHS dispensaries/hospitals are conducted by CGHS officers from time to time. Adviser/Deputy Adviser are authorised to attend the CGHS Ayurvedic Hospital, Lodhi Road, New Delhi once a week and this does not impair the independent functioning of the hospital.

Spread of Small Pox by Bio-terrorists

2133. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA :

PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is likelihood of the spread of small pox in the country by bio-terrorists after anthrax; and

(b) if so, the preventive measures taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) and (b) Not a single specimen tested for Anthrax in the designated laboratories found positive. There is a remote possibility of spread of small pox by the bio-terrorists. A detailed list of biological agents used as weapon prepared by the Indian Council of Medical Research along with signs and symptoms, likely method of dissemination, incubation period, lethality and the availability of vaccines, anti-microbial therapy and treatment has been circulated to Health Secretary and Director of Health Services of all States/UTs, and Central Government Hospitals advising them to take precautionary steps :

(i) earmarking of maximum number of beds for emergency contingency.

(ii) stocking of vaccinces/sera/drugs to the extent possible.

(iii) setting up a special team of doctors for coordinated action. They should be sensitized on the impact of such weapons and treatment measures.

As per the WHO guidelines, the best method of stopping a small pox outbreak if occurs, is search and containment. Vaccination of entire population is not recommended since there is a risk of severe reaction to the vaccine including death.

PET Facility in AIIMS

2134. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) how far the efforts to acquire a clinical PET facility in All India Institute of Medical Sciences have progressed;

(b) whether the PET scanner, Medical Cyclotron, target materials and laboratory requirements have been purchased; and

(c) by when the clinical PET facility will be commissioned ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Technical bid of clinical PET facility has been opened and is in the stage of finalisation. The complete system includes the PET scanner, medical cyclotron, target materials, labroratory requirements etc. The clinical PET facility is likely to be commissioned by March 2003.

Improvement in PHCs

†2135. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a need for large scale improvement in the functioning of Primary Health Centres;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the target of providing medical facilities to all cannot be achieved with the present system;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.